PREPARING THE SOIL

Botanists agree that it is best to start the seeds in soil which has good aeration, holds moisture, and is free of bacteria and other living organisms, so as to avoid stem rot, mites, and other complications. This sterile soil can be achieved by using the following materials which can be obtained at any nursery or garden shop.

1. *Vermiculite. (1 lb. costs 59 cents) Vermiculite is a sterile mica which has been exposed to extreme heat, resulting in tiny accordions that trap beneficial air and water, thus keeping the medium moist.*

2. *Milorganite. (50 lbs. costs $3.95) Milorganite is dried human waste that comes from a sewage treatment plant in Wisconsin.*

3. *Kitty Litter (10 lbs. costs 41 cents) Kitty Litter is a mica type substance which holds moisture and plant food.*

Now mix 5 parts of kitty litter and 5 part vermiculite with 2 parts milorganite to achieve the desired soil. If milorganite is not available in your area, steer manure or well-rotted manure can be substituted, as long as it is sterilized. Sterilization can be achieved by placing the manure in a pan, adding water to prevent burning, then covering the pan and baking for fifteen minutes.

Another suitable mixture is washed sand and shredded sphagnum moss (available at any nursery; 1 lb. costs about $1.00). Mix 2 parts moss to 1 part washed sand.

If these materials are not available, regular soil will do and should be obtained from the final growing site so as to lessen the shock of transplanting. A word of caution if you use regular soil. Regular soil has a tendency to become packed when

watered constantly, and the plants do not get an adequate air supply, subsequently they develop complications, sour, and die. To avoid this, mix your soil with tiny pebbles or any other substance (kitty litter is perfect) that will let the seedlings breathe and develop.

The above mixtures let the soil breathe and increase moisture retention, which is important for germinating seeds and young plant growth. After the plants reach a height of 6-8 inches you can safely assume that they will mature, but they will not develop into good marihuana plants if they are left in a moist soil. This is why transplanting is recommended. One babies the young Cannabis sativa plants by providing a nice aerated, moist growing medium. Then by changing the environment to a hot dry medium, the Cannabis sativa plant will protect itself with resin and develop into good marihuana.

soil testing kit